

**ABSTRACT**

5 A medical device which includes a component formed from an alloy which  
contains at least about 40% Ni by weight. The alloy in a 10 nm deep surface  
region of the component contains not more than about 10% Ni by weight.  
10 The Ni content in that surface region can be reduced by polishing and  
oxidizing treatment such as (a) exposure to superheated steam, or (b)  
immersion in a chemical solution, or (c) an electrochemical treatment, using  
the device as the anode in a solution bath with a current running  
therethrough.